

December 30, 2020

TO CRMC

FROM: W. Michael Sullivan

35 Cliff Drive Narragansett RI 2882

RE: Raso Application 2017-12-086

I'd like to first thank the subcommittee and the Council for their commitment to decisions based on policy and science. I know well the time, effort, patience and toll engaging in and sometime enduring the hearings and attentively evaluating the information provided takes. The following comments are based on my career experiences as a scientist-educator, environmentalist, fisher, sailor, elected official and program manager but they are my personal conclusions.

The CRMC decision making authority and responsibility is based on RI General Laws and well advertized rule making and rule adoption policies. The establishment of the 5% pond coverage with 'aquaculture' was a long and hard fought rule making. Some of us agreed and others thought 5% 'privatization' ought to also include the substantive use of public waters and pond bottom for private docks, moorings and the necessary approaches and travel lanes. These are in my opinion profited by individuals over the public benefit. I'd offer the recommendation that the CRMC consider this in the future when addressing any policy changes.

The data is clear. Policy allows up to 5% and this request would only increase use to 3%. Thus it does not exceed a standard long established. APPROVAL warranted.

Aquaculture is the fastest growing sector of Rhode Island agriculture. It was relatively non-existent 25 years ago and continuing to expand and adopt new technologies. Superior genetics, improved cultivation techniques and a great and expanding reputation for a quality product will continue to increase the opportunity and demand for RI oysters, scallops, sugar kelp and other products the innovative producers will bring to the marketplace. The Rhode Island Office of USDA's Farm Services Agency provides agricultural producers with loan options and insurance options for aquaculture producers. There are over 35 producers with current loans to initiate and expand aquaculture farms in RI waters. Over 50 producers participate in the USDA Non-Insured Crop Program. This program provides risk management coverage where the commercial marketplace does not provide coverage options. The evidence that this industry and sensible user of public sector property is viable on an ongoing basis is well documented and serves public value with expanding employment and positive environmental benefits. The industry needs to address well documented demands. APPROVAL is warranted.

The testimony on pond health is fraught conflicting statements or outright ignorance. The coastal ponds are changing in health and function in response to a broad array of impacting uses. The ponds are the receiving waters for most nutrients flowing from waste management systems of the surrounding homes. The Cesspool Phase Out Act of 2007 as amended and adopted by DEM and CRMC sought to decrease the impacts of waste contributions. However, the 'camp, cottage or summer home' now replaced with residences that have expanded the nutrient footprint both in time occupied and total toilets has only limited the rate of increase of nutrients.

There are only a few ways to decrease nutrient enrichment of the ponds. Reduce housing density, reduce residential time, decrease conversion to larger and persistent occupancy of near pond dwelling units and to increase direct nutrient 'harvest'. The necessary curbs on housing would be more hostility received than the 'harvest' option is. Nutrient harvest is achieved by the removal of protein (approx. 6% nitrogen) from the ponds. Shellfish are effective filter feeders. They ingest microflora and microfauna from the water column and incorporate their nutrients into their growing shellfish biomass. The suggestion that shellfish waste is a problem is not valid. There are no scientific reports on problems developing or caused from shellfish excrement. The benefit of shell fish is the retain a significant amount of the dissolved nutrients in the water column and these nutrients are removed when harvested. This is the only active nutrient reduction program in the coastal salt ponds. The coastal salt ponds are critical hatcheries for most all coastal fin fisheries. The recreational and commercial value of these fisheries is well documented and actions to support and sustain them of great public benefit. The public benefit of maintaining and enhancing nutrient removal needs to be upheld. The expansion of aquaculture for this public benefit is noteworthy and warrants APPROVAL

Rhode Island is the only State to have used the latest and best science in evaluation of soil specific characteristics supporting or posing barriers to a land use. RI has mapped its subaqueous soils across the coastal salt ponds. The database can and should be used more as objective criteria for aquaculture operation sighting. The soil at the proposed site is suitable for farming and other sites proposed by opponents are not as suitable. Soil suitability and the objective data derived by survey of the bottom use by RI Department of Environmental Management Marine Fisheries staff along with CRMC staff provide objective evidence of exceptionally low natural shellfish population provides necessary data to support APPROVAL.

Considerable commentary was placed on the record about the visual impacts of floating versus bottom farming. The suggestion was made by some that they'd have less objection to one technique over the proposed floating gear. This is understandable objection made by those with a perceived vested right in how the ponds appear. The aquaculture gear choice is changing as most agricultural gear/equipment changes due to production expectation and pest challenges. The occurrence of both green crab and mud worms in our coastal ponds are not unique or special. However, providing them with a concentrated feeding ground as is achieved via an aquaculture operation artificially increases these predators' numbers and biomass. This increased predation on both 'wild' and 'farmed' shellfish. The movement to 'suspended' gear reduces or even eliminates these predators and thus provides greater

biosecurity for both farm and wild shellfish populations. Gear choice is a farmer decision and policy should not dictate how a farmer operates. The RI Right to Farm act specifically prohibits such intrusion into usual, customary and best farm management practices. APPROVAL of floating gear has public benefit value.

There was considerable emotional testimony based not on objective criteria. I don't believe the emotional weighing is allowed under the requirement for objective and measured data on impacts and public value. I accept there is considerable use of the pond resource for boating and associated activities. There is a fundamental conflict with taking an action to enhance activities which are demonstrated and documented to cause many adverse impacts to our coastal salt ponds and their health and function. The warm memories of water skiing, jet skiing, tubing etc are shared by many including myself. However, a real consequence of these activities are enhanced pond vegetation damage, further nutrient enrichment, increased broad based pollution via carbon emissions, fuel and waste fuel losses into the water column. These occur but no one measures or admits. Not all adverse impacts are recognized. Reasonable limits can be placed on the management of the proposed farm and its operations. The placement of work times and service vessel size would be in conflict with the RI Right to Farm statute provisions but would likely be accepted as a condition of permitting. APPROVAL with operational time and vessel caveats should be made.

I have been troubled in the past when participants suggest political interference as a result of 'connection' or 'contribution' provides an advantage. I was offended in the most recent hearing by the notation of voluntary contributions to a political figure. I was so outraged that I quickly viewed the public record of campaign contributions. It appears the contribution level of opponents to the same cited political figure greatly dwarf those of the applicant. So I'd return to my effort to ask and implore the Sub-committee to recommend APPROVAL based on objective, measured Public Benefits of the proposed farm.

Thank you for your efforts, attention and patience. I would be available if the members have any questions.

Respectfully,

W. Michael Sullivan, PhD

Cstaff1

From: joycedcorl@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 9:28 PM
To: cstff1@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: File number:2017-12-086
Attachments: 7CDE9885-D46A-486C-964A-CCCA29478314.jpeg; 73C2C004-6124-46F0-ACC6-8E6BA1C2964A.jpeg; 323D5FB0-B229-41DC-8064-3C04C404278A.jpeg; A47DAD44-3BAF-423E-9C1D-4753F92CA3FD.jpeg; 8B76724D-071C-4EF1-B8B9-68402118F6EE.png

-----Original Message-----

From: joycedcorl <joycedcorl@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Dec 30, 2020 05:29 PM
Subject: Segar Cove photos

My name is Joyce Corl, this is a follow up to my December 16 testimony. At that time my photos were not able to be seen well.

I live at the pond end of Washington Street beside the public access, it is one of 4 public access points on Potter Pond, three of which are in Segar Cove. The fourth is mainly a boat launch at the end of Seaweed Cove which is aptly named. Moorings are in both Segar and Seaweed coves. The public accesses are how folks get to their boats. People also utilize the pond by using kayaks, paddle boards, etc. which they leave at the public access areas. (first picture)

We are retired and enjoy watching what is happening on the pond in Segar Cove. I see folks enjoying the Cove all of the time. (The second picture shows this)

Even in winter people are enjoying the Cove. We see boats paddle boards and people clamming wearing wet suits. (the third and fourth pictures of the public access were taken this December)

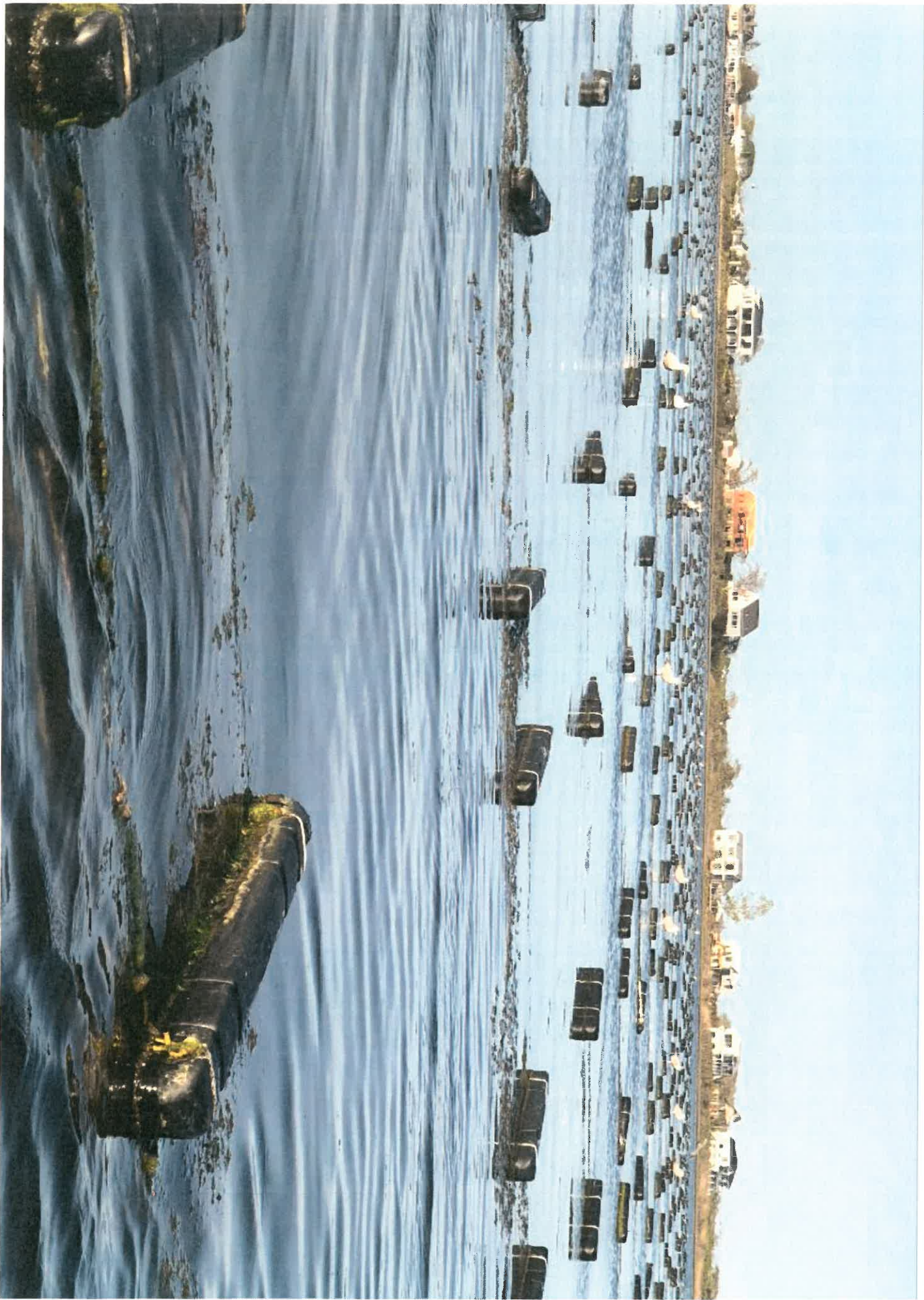
The people using the pond try to be so thoughtful. They take turns and try not to motor up to a kayaker or a paddle board. Three motor boats can circle the cove by keeping a safe distance between boats. So many activities would certainly be curtailed with the new 3 acre farm and the barge or boat that would be used to harvest. (picture 5 is of Perry's 7+ acre farm and I would hope this doesn't happen to Segar Cove.)

Thank you











Cstaff1

From: Art's Email <arthurlowe11@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 1:48 PM
To: cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Oyster farm proposal

Hi my name is Art Lowe we've owned a home on 263 Prospect Rd for going on 24 yrs. My now adult children as well as our grandkids ages (7,6,2 and now 6months) have tubed in that exact area for those 24 yrs., we use Segar Cove as it is much safer for the younger kids to tube and swim off the boat and just around the corner from our dock. I have been a boater for over 60 yrs and if the proposed farm is approved my family will no longer be safe in that area. When the kids get tired we anchor up on that shoreline away from boat traffic so they can have lunch and later swim from the boat. I am not opposed to Perry's expansion just not at that location Thank you Art Lowe

Sent from my iPhone

12/30/2020

10:08:06 From Phil Capaldi to All panelists : Where is legal for CRMC - Mr. Disisto

10:09:26 From C. G. Bush : Can volume be increased, please?

10:11:44 From Phil Capaldi to All panelists : As public - workshop - it will be posted for public to attend?

10:13:32 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Janis Loiselle you will be speaking first.

10:14:16 From Beverly Hodgson to All panelists : please post the list

10:15:59 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator :
http://www.crmc.ri.gov/meetings/2020_1230raso_commenters.pdf

10:16:16 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : The list of commenters can be found in the link above

10:16:37 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Deb Carreau you will be speaking next.

10:16:54 From Deb Carreau : YES - THANK YOU

10:21:28 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Mark Latham you will be speaking next.

10:26:19 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Jane Enos you are next.

10:32:41 From Bob to All panelists : I have often enjoyed kayaking with friends and family at Segar Cove. I strongly object to any use of the cove that would restrict recreational activities. Bob Bianchini 78 Atlantic Matunuck

10:37:18 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Joel Thomson you will be speaking next.

10:48:33 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Sofia Weidknecht you will be speaking next.

10:58:05 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Ed Stapans you are next.

11:00:10 From Kevin Ruth to All panelists : I have lived in Potter Pond, at 661B Succotash Road for 15 years. I have direct waterfront access to Potter Pond. I actively enjoy my time on the pond. I kayak and boat on the pond weekly. I have enjoyed kayaking the most and I am very familiar with the entire Pond. I have no objection at all to the proposed location of the 3 acre site. It is my opinion that this location would not impact towable activity such as water skiing or tubing. In my opinion and my experience this area has very low activity of towable water sports. Most of the activity that I have observed is in the North end of the pond. In owning on the Pond I have observed the creation and expansion of the existing leased oyster beds and I personally feel the beds have only contributed to the overall health of the pond. I also feel the positive economic impact to our community outweighs the objections. These beds offer significant jobs on the water through cultivation and harvest as well as jobs through distribution and through the restaurants

11:02:26 From Kevin Ruth to All panelists : that serve them. I fully support this application.

11:07:44 From Megan Lagasse to All panelists : Hello, I am a Rhode Island resident and have been living in South County for 10 years now. I am also an employee of Matunuck Oyster Bar and have been for 8 years. Shellfish aquaculture is a great use of the State's waterway because it is a beneficial part of our environment, both sustainable and green. The pond will benefit as oysters alone filter water as part of their natural feeding process making it a cleaner pond for everyone to enjoy. This proposed farm would take up only 1% of the entire pond, leaving more than enough space to allow others to use the pond recreationally. This

new farm will not only benefit the environment, it will benefit the economy, as I believe it to be very important to grow our food here in Rhode Island as well.

11:10:21 From alicia to All panelists : is it possible these people couldn't get admitted from the waiting room, if they logged on late?

11:10:57 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator to alicia and all panelists : There is no waiting room using Zoom Webinar

11:11:11 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Cheryl Twiss you are speaking next.

11:11:20 From Thad Wahlberg to All panelists : Hi my name is Thaddeus Wahlberg and I am a lifelong resident of South Kingstown and an employee at the Matunuck Oyster Bar. I support Perry Raso's application for expansion of his oyster farm into Segar cove in Potter Pond. I have throughout my life used this Pond for recreation such as fishing, boating, skiing, and shell fishing. I feel as if the proposed expansion does not interfere with these activities. Most of my time is spent at the top of the Pond and from my observations over the years most recreational activity takes place here as well, in particular water sports. I believe the expansion is a great thing for the pond and community and will improve the health of both.

11:11:43 From Cheryl Twiss-Newport Hospitality : I am here

11:17:45 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Tommy Lockwood you are next to speak

11:21:35 From Michael to All panelists : I failed to sign up to speak and have been listening and taking note of testimony. Is there a mechanism other than type all into a 'chat' room for me to file my perspectives? W. Michael Sullivan

11:26:26 From Terra Emery to All panelists : I am a Rhode Island resident and have lived in South County for over 40 years. I am familiar with the pond and I feel that an aquaculture farm is an appropriate use of this water body. There is minimal recreational activity on the pond and is not a heavily used area. The proposed aquaculture farm would take up a mere percentage of the pond, while still allowing plenty of space for those that want to enjoy it. As an employee of MOB, I strongly believe that an aquaculture farm is not only beneficial for the environment and the pond, it also provides a local, sustainable food source to this community. It is more important than ever that we are growing our own food right here in Rhode Island. It is my opinion that this proposed farm adds significant value to the environment, and to Rhode Island, and I do not feel that there are any safety concerns or reasons to object. I fully support this proposed farm and have no objections.

11:27:04 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Denis DeMagistris you are next to speak.

11:31:31 From Michelle Conner to All panelists : My name is Michelle Conner and I am an oyster farm employee. I have had the opportunity to work on Potter's Pond for about a year now. I am currently a junior at the University of Rhode Island. In addition to this, I study Marine Affairs and have done much research regarding the field of aquaculture. I strongly believe that the action of growing our own food in the state of Rhode Island is very important and beneficial to our communities. It will not only strengthen the ecosystems of the ponds but help the never ending food gap within the fisheries. Perry Raso is more of a role model to me than a boss. Each day he has helped teach me things that I cannot learn within the classroom. I understand the issues relating to recreational use, but ultimately I believe the farm and community life can coexist smoothly.

11:32:01 From Tom Lockwood to All panelists : I had trouble logging on.
Can I speak now

11:34:18 From Tom Lockwood to All panelists : My name is Tom Lockwood. I had some trouble logging in. Can I please get a radio check on this computer from someone to ensure that I am live. thanks,

11:35:39 From chris to All panelists : Hello. This is my first time to one of these meetings as those of us from out of state are not really notified about these unless we make an active attempt to get involved... Anyway, as much as I enjoy the food at the oyster bar, myself and my family, STRONGLY OPPOSE this scallop farm. The current oyster farm is already an eye sore, an obstruction of the waterway and enough is enough. I think it really should be considered that those of us who live on this pond, do not want anymore farms in it. Enough is enough, put this next venture in someone else's backyard.

11:35:45 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator to Tom Lockwood and all panelists : Hi Tom, I will notify the Chair you are now present.

11:36:52 From Tom Lockwood to All panelists : Can you see me? I am not sure if I am logged in correctly. Thanks

11:37:06 From chris to All panelists : Thank you for your time and consideration in the matter. Have a good day.

11:48:42 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Phil Capaldi you will be speaking next.

11:49:52 From Lucy Sweeney to All panelists : Hello, my name is Lucy Sweeney and I was born and raised in Rhode Island and have been a South County resident for over a decade. I support Perry Raso's application for expansion of his farm into Segar cove in Potter Pond. I have been lucky enough to enjoy this Pond throughout my life. For countless summers my friends with motor boats and I have enjoyed many water sports being towed behind the boats around the pond. We have always enjoyed these activities at the top of the pond and have seen many others doing the same in this area. These activities are always in the opposite side of the pond as the current oyster farm/the future expansion farm and therefore has not ever been effected by existence of the oyster farm. The 1% space taken up by the farm has never negatively impacted our enjoyment of the pond. We are able to enjoy our water sports and know that on the other side of the pond, sustainable aquaculture is being practiced and people of all ages are able to become educated about these fascinating farm

11:50:36 From alicia to All panelists : the current farm is not considered a safety hazard as the water it too shallow for much recreational use; however the proposed pond is in deep water and is a safety hazard, in contrast to Mr. Lockwood's testimony.the PROPOSED farm, which

11:51:09 From Lucy Sweeney to All panelists : practices. I do not think that proposed expansion would interfere with the enjoyment of these activities at all. I am not an active employee, but have previously worked at the Matunuck Oyster Bar and have been very proud over the past years to bring friends and family on Perry's farm tours in the pond. I think the expansion is a fantastic way to add to these sustainable educational opportunities on the pond and therefore a great thing for the community and the pond.

11:51:11 From alicia to All panelists : correction: proposed farm is in deep water.

11:54:32 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Janis Loiselle you are next.

11:55:20 From Kevin momenee to All panelists : My name is Kevin Momenee

and I am the general manager of Matunuck Oyster Bar. I am here today however as a resident of East Matunuck. I own a home in snug harbor and have lived in East Matunuck for the past 5 years. The beauty of this area is amazing and continues to inspire people to do great things. Perry Raso is one of those people. He not only provides numerous jobs but educates hundreds with his knowledge and familiarity with the local waters. When I am not at the restaurant I am out in the pond fishing, clamming and swimming. I have never had an issue with oyster farms in any way. Shellfish aquaculture is so important to the environment and our local community. I am 100% supportive of this new farm.

12:01:36 From rose bell to All panelists : Growing up in Matunuck I spent a lot of time in and near potters pond. Now as an employee of the shellfish farm I am there almost every day. The shellfish farm on potters pond, is a great educational resource as well as a flawless farm to table system, which we have very few of in Rhode Island. The farm should be able to expand and the community has already shown their support by how successful the restaurant and the oyster sales are. The expanded farm would still allow plenty of room for all water activities. The pond is huge and the small places where the farm is are clearly marked with no hazard. Boating would still be absolutely no problem if the farm was expanded. As someone who is out on the pond Monday-Friday from sun up to sun down I can confidently say that every single person I have seen and interacted with has been so impressed and inquisitive about the shellfish farm. I have never seen a boat accidentally come into the farm or even to close. The pond is big enough to share with everyone.

12:02:07 From Oliver Dixon to All panelists : I have been the manager of the Matunuck Oyster farm for a few years now and spend a lot of time on Potter Pond. Creating a safe and respectful work environment on the pond is always my top concern. I've been a Rhode Island resident for about 8 years, and spend a lot of my free time boating, fishing, and hunting all around Potter Pond. I feel that the proposed lease location does not restrict or limit recreational activity in any way. I'd like to encourage the growth of local, sustainable, agriculture throughout Rhode Island, and the Matunuck Oyster Farm in a perfect example of that.

12:03:02 From C. G. Bush : Bravo, Mr. Capaldi

12:04:28 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : idk man, i think they're food is pretty great plus oysters filtering out the toxins jet skis leech into the pond is pretty cool for the environment

12:04:33 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : their*

12:04:47 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : also did you know we are facing global warming??

12:04:51 From Janis Loiselle : I will try another computer. I am sorry for problem

12:04:59 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : anything that helps the environment is great

12:05:27 From Rick to All panelists : I'm not sure why anyone would not go to Matunuck Oyster Bar. It's been one of the best things happened to our area... We're SK residents for over 25 years.

12:06:56 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Josephine Scofani you are speaking next

12:07:53 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : oh also, the ultimate form of misogyny is exerting possession over nature in order to exploit it for

recreational and personal use vs enhancing the natural environment and aiding the restoration of natural species

12:09:39 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Paul Hooper you are next.

12:17:10 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Stephen Quigley you are speaking next.

12:18:50 From Janis Loiselle : This is Janis Loiselle and I can join on

12:19:28 From Janis Loiselle : telephone, where I am listening now. thank you.

12:20:00 From Lisa Topakian to All panelists : I am a Rhode island resident and I support Perry's expansion.

12:21:58 From Rick to All panelists : I'm Rick Meehan, a Matunuck area resident for over 25 years. The oyster farm in Potters Pond has never created any health issues or safety risks; in fact, it's been a model for how a local economy should be evolving. Perry has always been a responsible (& educated) businessman, not to mention an outstanding generous citizen. My wife, children & our extended family & friends are in favor of the new farm and sincerely hope that the Matunuck Oyster Bar continues to be successful for the good of Matunuck and Rhode Island. There's no stopping progress, however, with businesses like the one Perry Raso runs, we avoid the environmental & safety concerns that others would definitely present.

12:23:38 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : How would 1% deny you the other 99%?

12:23:46 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : just curious

12:24:41 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : My math may not ~add up~

12:30:23 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Melissa Buonaiuto you are next to speak

12:34:21 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : the sweet sound of oyster farming in potter pond (not ram island) has brought satisfaction and pride

12:34:31 From rhodygal1010 to All panelists : You know this isn't ram island right??

12:38:35 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : John Krekorian you are speaking next.

12:49:46 From Brittany Spurlock, Moderator : Matthew Meyer you are next to speak.

12:52:57 From Jared Tausig to All panelists : Madam Chairwoman, I wanted to thank you for conducting this meeting in a professional and orderly manner. And specifically wanted to thank you for taking the time for the personal comment & congratulations that you extended to the young woman who was brave enough to give her comments from Colorado. That was kind of you.

12:58:11 From SJohnson401 to All panelists : My name is Sarah Johnson and I have been south Kingstown resident for over 20 years. Potters pond is a place that is very important to me. I have enjoyed countless summers swimming, boating, tubing, as well as relaxing along its shores. With all that said I strongly support the expansion of the farm. I have never felt the presence of the farm has inhibited my recreational use of the pond, and according to the proposition, with the proposed expansion it would still account for only 1% of the pond. Most of the time my friends and I are boating or swimming at the top of the pond, which is on the opposite side. Personally, I feel that having a sustainable farm is a great asset to our community. In addition to actively producing fresh local seafood for our community it also contributes positively to the health of the ecosystem. I'm currently an ICU nurse, but was previously an employee of matunuck oyster bar, and I

was very proud to be a part of that organization, one which is rooted firmly in sustainable aquacult

12:58:40 From SJohnson401 to All panelists : practices and also educating the public on the importance of our beloved ecosystem. I think continuing to invest further in our local resources is very important.

12:59:09 From Christopher Zentini to All panelists : I've not a resident of potter pond, but in all my time there I have seen two or three people all together that use the water recreationally. the née farm would not impact the new water and if putting the environment above property is an issue, I am proud to support perry rasp's endeavors

12:59:23 From Beverly Hodgson to All panelists : This is Beverly Hodgson. I was not reached today and continue to wish to testify Please send me the date/link

13:00:03 From Christopher Zentini to All panelists : the complaints of property value devalue the environmental integrity of the pond

13:01:19 From Christopher Zentini to All panelists : perry raso deserves to enhance the natural environment and promote an industry that relies of the wellbeing of the natural waterways and land

December 30, 2020

TO: Coastal Resources Management Council

RE: CRMC File #: 2017-12-086 – Perry Raso

My family has owned 92 Peninsula Road in Matunuck since 1970 and I have lived here full time since 2002. We are waterfront on Seaweed Cove, facing the south end of Segar Cove.

My wife and I have listened to every minute of the Raso application hearings via the zoom meetings. While we admire what Mr. Raso has created and achieved, this new farm he wants to establish is completely unacceptable.

To keep this brief and not repeat what many other speakers and witnesses have spoken about, we certainly hope that this board does not attempt to “boil this down” to skiers, tubers, or other towed watersports versus Perry Raso, Matunuck Oyster Bar and his proposed farm. That is not the issue. The issue is the OVERALL use of Potter Pond.

We have seen firsthand a dramatic annual increase of this estuary for recreational use to include: powerboating, cruising, fishing, clamming, crabbing, tubing, skiing, wakeboarding, wind surfing, sailing, snorkeling, swimming, paddle boarding, kayaking, etc. With the recent explosion of kayaking and paddle boarding, if this application were to be approved, the board would be condensing the use of the only two deep water (5 feet plus) recreational areas in the entire body of Potter Pond. We see dozens and dozens of paddle boards and kayaks starting at 6 a.m. to dark all over the ponds. Many have no knowledge of the depth or channels in the pond and coves, adding to overall congestion.

The 95/5% rule doesn't really apply or make sense here as multiple testimonies, use of charts, and satellite images have confirmed that the majority of Potter Pond is knee deep or less, rocky or eel grass covered and not navigable.

Mr. Raso certainly has other options outside of Potter Pond to place his farm. One, for instance, would be close his marina, remove the boats and docks (an ecological positive) and place his farm there. It has a similar depth, hard bottom and great water flush.

If the CRMC Board chooses to approve this lease they might as well finish the job and officially change the name of Potter Pond to Perry Pond.

Sincerely,

Steve and Ann Marie Hitchery

cstaff1

From: Jared Tausig <j2tausig@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 12:45 PM
To: cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Application for an additional Shellfish Farm in Potter Pond

Members of the Committee

Thank you for your time. I'm a resident of Massachusetts that has come to Rhode Island both alone and with friends every spring for over 20 years to fish for striped bass in Potter Pond. We have spent money on gas, food, lodging, etc as part of these trips. Potter Pond is a wonderful communal resource and I would like to raise an objection to loss of Segar Cove as part of the Mr. Perry Raso's application for another Shellfish Farm.

As has been noted in public comment, Segar Cove in specific and Potter Pond in general has a huge benefit to both residents and non-residents alike. Losing Segar Cove would be a terrible loss. Once gone, it will not be replaced and that would be a tragedy. Furthermore, Mr. Raso has admitted that his initial shellfish farm exceeded the leased size. Why on earth would this committee even consider allowing the applicant a second lease based on this fact alone?

I urge you to deny this application.

Thank you for your consideration. Best wishes for the New Year to each and every one of you. Stay safe & stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Jared Tausig

Cstaff1

From: Ann Marie Hitchery <aml69@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 11:15 AM
To: cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov; council@crmc.ri.gov
Cc: steveh92@hotmail.com
Subject: File # 2017-12-086 - Perry Raso Application
Attachments: CRMC Letter of Opposition - Raso Application 2017-12-086.pdf

Please see the attached letter regarding CRMC File # 2017-12-086 – Perry Raso Application.

Thank you,

Steve and Ann Marie Hitchery

December 30, 2020

TO: Coastal Resources Management Council

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My wife and I have listened to every minute of the Raso application hearings via the zoom meetings. While we admire what Mr. Raso has created and achieved, this new farm he wants to establish is completely unacceptable.

To keep this brief and not repeat what many other speakers and witnesses have spoken about, we certainly hope that this board does not attempt to “boil this down” to skiers, tubers, or other towed watersports versus Perry Raso, Matunuck Oyster Bar and his proposed farm. That is not the issue. The issue is the OVERALL use of Potter Pond.

We have seen firsthand a dramatic annual increase of this estuary for recreational use to include: powerboating, cruising, fishing, clamming, crabbing, tubing, skiing, wakeboarding, wind surfing, sailing, snorkeling, swimming, paddle boarding, kayaking, etc. With the recent explosion of kayaking and paddle boarding, if this application were to be approved, the board would be condensing the use of the only two deep water (5 feet plus) recreational areas in the entire body of Potter Pond. We see dozens and dozens of paddle boards and kayaks starting at 6 a.m. to dark all over the ponds. Many have no knowledge of the depth or channels in the pond and coves, adding to overall congestion.

The 95/5% rule doesn't really apply or make sense here as multiple testimonies, use of charts, and satellite images have confirmed that the majority of Potter Pond is knee deep or less, rocky or eel grass covered and not navigable.

Mr. Raso certainly has other options outside of Potter Pond to place his farm. One, for instance, would be close his marina, remove the boats and docks (an ecological positive) and place his farm there. It has a similar depth, hard bottom and great water flush.

If the CRMC Board chooses to approve this lease they might as well finish the job and officially change the name of Potter Pond to Perry Pond.

Sincerely,

Steve and Ann Marie Hitchery

Cstaff1

From: Phil Capaldi <philcapaldi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 12:05 PM
To: cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Objection for the Record (and was on the list and spoke)

Dear Members of the CRMC Subcommittee,

My name is Phil Capaldi - I am not a tuber - or water skier - nor riparian right landowner. I am a recreational fin-fisherman. I have since 1986. My recreational use I can not prove.

I fish at dawn and at dusk -not at high noon.

I have never seen the applicant on the water - but I do believe that he uses the pond. His footprints are clearly visible - mine are not.

This space in Segar Cove - if developed will be gone forever. gone forever for recreational use.

Did Mr. Reaulht turn in his aquaculture lease? No - he sold the lease. Has any lease site been returned to public use. No. This acreage in Segar Cove will be gone forever.

A lease is for 15 years. There is only one time - the public is able to raise objections.

Once an area of state submerged land is developed - it will never return for public use. I won't be able to object - to a renewal or sale.

The public.

The - non-riparian right public.

The non-"represented by a lawyer" public -

Object to this lease.

Let's talk about the REGULATIONS - The obligation for CRMC to uphold.

Section 1.3.5 Policies for the Protection and Enhancement of the Scenic Value of Coastal Region (the CRMC Red Book)

A General Policies - 1. The primary goal of all council efforts is to preserve, and wherever possible restore the scenic value of the coastal region. The subcommittee is composed of members of the CRMC - This is YOUR charge.

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Panel - ended in a tie - regarding the proposal. Fin-fishing was a point of concern there leading to the tie. They understood the regulations that CRMC outlined.

This acreage is used by recreational fin fishermen. This location - not a matter of shifting feet - inches - It's the entire lease.

There is a letter from RISAA speaking to fin-fishing in the file. Tied directly to CRMC language in the highly regulated process.

A hooked fish won't "stay in a lane" as suggested a boater would have to navigate the lease location. I also know from experience - kayaking near a commercial lease - is often greeted with harsh words from employees - and rightly so. I can't imagine having to protect the investment in open water.

The SK waterfront panel also had reservations. The applicant laments that he was not invited to the table. Were coastal homeowners invited to the inspection of the aquaculture site when the applicant placed the permit? Were, we the public,

invited to place buoys with Mr. Buetel and Mr. Raso? or to do the shellfish sample with Mr. Buetel and Mr. Raso. The Segar Cove lease was buoyed off, claimed and sealed as a done deal between a friendship well documented over their careers.

When the public *did* see the potential lease - they responded. In opposition. A public that does not have riparian rights.

Recreational use and scenic beauty has a monetary value that far exceeds the money generated to the state by aquaculture. Recreational use and scenic beauty is in the regulations. URI - puts total from 2016 at \$311 million. Even the governor would have to give pause on this fact - that it is recreation as the key to the "green RI economy". The applicant's political donations. To date - 4,450.00\$ to Gina Raimondo -places the CRMC in the middle for sure. So remember this is - GONE FOREVER for PUBLIC USE. If I could buy 3 acres of a pristine Rhode Island Salt Pond, I would happily pay this amount for exclusive use.

Back to the regulations - CRMC regulations.

Category B - Requirements -

1.e - The property that is directly east of the proposed lease is classified as "Lands of Critical Concern". This lease - if allowed to be developed - will go from minimal disturbance to a constant disturbance. (As stated by the hours of 9 am to 5 pm) INLAND and WATER BASED species. The land owner is under restrictions, but now there is an exception to CRMC's rules?

1.g. 1.h - None of the expert witnesses were asked about the sediments that fall directly beneath the lease site, or nearby habitat that is negatively affected by shellfish feces. These

oyster water cleaners are considered "Livestock". They do shit in the water.

1.k There is no question that the floating lease gear and daily activity will result in substantial adverse scenic impact.

Finally, The high temperature threshold and low level oxygen during the summer months make segar cove non-conducive for bay scallops - which have been on the decline since 1970. This will become the deep water storage site for the applicant's existing farm - to expand to match his existing lease. A deep water site mitigates winter loss. Once he has it - the public WILL NEVER have this area for use.

Perhaps instead of developing this shared space, so close to "Land of Critical Concern" designated by the CRMC, the applicant could help preserve this amazing natural space for recreational use. Think of the positive PR that a "Segar Cover Conservation Area" brought to you by Matunuck Oyster Bar and it's Native Son - Perry Raso.

Phil Capaldi
15 Baneberry Trail
Saunderstown, RI 02874
401-413-3336

My name is Phil Capaldi - and I object to this lease.